

BUCEROS RHINOCEROS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum convexum, curvatum, cultratum, magnum, extrorsum ferratum; Frontis calvaria nuda, osseo-gibbosa.

Nares pone rostri basin.

Lingua acuta, brevis.

Pedes gressorii.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 153.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

BUCEROS cornu mandibulari frontis recurvato.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 153.

HYDROCORAX INDICUS.

Brisf. Av. 4. p. 571.

Genus Buceros ab aliis omnibus avibus facillime dignoscitur ob rostrum ingens et immodicum; primo sane intuitu, deformitati potius fortuitæ et enormi, quam constanti perfectoque Naturæ artificio similis. Cuinam commodo inserviat rostrum hoc inusitatum difficile est dicere; nec de hac re aliquid conjicere possum præter quod jampridem observarunt plurimi physici; posse nempe illud ea de causa dari, ut contra

R

hostes

hostes potentiores, si quando cum illis confligitur, melius decertetur.

In plerisque hujus generis speciebus pars illa superioris maxillæ quæ prominet, recta est: at in specie de qua jam loquimur, recurvatur; unde et ipsa avis nomine *Rhinocerotis* distinguitur. Indiam incolit Orientalem, et in insula Java, nec non in Sumatra, in insulis etiam Philippensibus frequenter conspicitur. Carnes putridas fertur comedere, visceraque animalium incredibili lætitia deglutire.

Magnitudine Meleagridi Gallopavoni LINNÆI non longe est inferior. Colores sunt albi nigrique, ut præsentat tabula. Rostrum uncias decem est longum; cornuque seu processum super mandibulam superiorem gerit incurvatum, linea longitudinali nigra notatum. Mandibula superior ad basin rubra est, indeque ad apicem albo-flavescentes: inferior pallida est, basi nigra.



S. W.

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a description or notes related to the bird, located along the right edge of the illustration.

THE
GREAT HORNBILL,
OR
RHINOCEROS-BIRD.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, large, and bent, with a protuberance on the upper mandible.

Nostrils small, and seated behind the base of the bill.

Tongue small? sharp?

Feet formed for walking, *viz.* three toes forward, one backward.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

BUCEROS with a recurved mandibular horn.

HORNED INDIAN RAVEN, or RHINOCEROS-BIRD.

Will. Ornithol. p. 127.

The genus to which this bird belongs, is above all others distinguished by the extraordinary structure of the beak, which at first view has rather the appearance of some enormous deformity, or irregular monstrosity, than of a natural production. What is the intent of
Nature

Nature in the formation of this singular beak, is not yet clearly investigated; it has been supposed, (and not without a considerable degree of probability) that the birds of this genus, having some very powerful enemies, with which they may have occasional conflicts, are provided with this immoderate beak as a defensive weapon.

In most of the species, the prominent part on the upper mandible is of a straight form; but in the present species it is turned backwards in a most singular manner; and it is from this circumstance that the bird has obtained its common title of Rhinoceros-bird. It is a native of the East-Indies, and is often found in Sumatra and Java, and the Philippine Islands. It is said to feed on carrion, and to be particularly fond of the entrails of animals.

This bird is not much inferior in size to a turkey, and its colours are as represented in the plate; viz. black and white. The beak is about ten inches long, and the horn or curved process on the upper part, is marked by a longitudinal line of black. The upper mandible is red at the base, and of a whitish yellow as it approaches the tip. The lower one is of a pale colour, with a black base.